



ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
Wednesday, January 3, 2024  
Nauset Room, Town Hall

A meeting of the Town of Orleans Select Board was held in the Nauset Room at Town Hall and via Zoom and Channel 8 at 4:00 pm on January 3, 2024.

In attendance in the Nauset Room were Chair Michael Herman, Mr. Mark Mathison, Mr. Meff Runyon, and Mr. Kevin Galligan. Ms. Andrea Reed attended via Zoom. Town Manager Ms. Kimberly Newman and Assistant Manager Mr. Mark Reil also attended.

4:00pm Call to Order. The Chair called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

Mr. Peter Gori spoke about an absence of communication from Town Hall regarding road closures for the sewer project along East Main Street and the detrimental impact on businesses in that area.

Vote to approve issuance and details of loan from Massachusetts Clean Water Trust and sign interim loan note closing papers. Mr. Scott Walker, Treasurer, spoke about the approval to close the interim financing for the Meetinghouse Project through the State. There was some discussion about the possibility of adding language regarding "debt exclusion" to the agreement.

**Mr. Runyon moved that the vote, as presented in the Select Board packet, be adopted in its entirety and the text of such votes be incorporated into the minutes. Mr. Galligan seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.**

Meet with the Police Chief to consider request to initiate hiring process for full time officers.

**Mr. Galligan moved to authorize the Police Chief to initiate the hiring process for new full-time officers. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.**

Consider the request from the Transportation & Bikeways Advisory Committee for safety signage at Sky Meadow and Captain Linnell Road. The Chief of Police discussed the need for approval of a stop sign at the intersection.

Mr. Runyon moved to approve the request for a stop sign at Sky Meadow Drive and Captain Linnell Road including a Keep Right sign. Seconded by Mr. Mathison. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Committee interviews, appointments, resignations.

a. Board of Assessors:

The Board interviewed Mr. Nick Bono for an appointment to the Board of Assessors.

Mr. Mathison moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Anthony Cincotta with thanks. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Mr. Mathison moved to appoint Mr. Nick Bono to the Board of Assessors with a term ending 6/30/2025. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

b. Conservation Commission:

Mr. Galligan moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Mike Brink from the Conservation Commission with gratitude. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

The Select Board interviewed two applicants for the Conservation Commission. Mr. Dick Hilmer spoke first about his background and experience. Mr. Tim Payson also spoke about his background and commitment.

Ms. Reed moved to elevate Mia Ward to regular membership with a term ending 6/30/26. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Mr. Galligan moved to appoint both Mr. Hilmer and Mr. Payson to associate member positions with the Conservation Commission with terms ending 6/30/24. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

c. Historic District Study Committee

Mr. Runyon moved to accept the resignation of Mr. David Herrick from the Historic District Study Committee with appreciation. Mr. Mathison seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

The Select Board interviewed Mr. Fred Boak for a role on the Historic District Study Committee.

Mr. Runyon moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Fred Boak to the Historic District Study Committee with a term ending 6/30/24. Ms. Reed seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

d. Old Kings Highway Committee

Mr. Runyon moved to reappoint Mr. John Smith to the Old Kings Highway Committee with a term ending 12/31/24. Mr. Mathison seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Mr. Runyon moved to appoint Mr. John Ingwersen to the Old Kings Highway Committee with a term ending 12/31/24. Mr. Mathison seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Mr. Ingwersen introduced himself and his background to the Select Board.

e. Energy & Climate Action Committee  
Kevin Clements resignation

Mr. Galligan moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Kevin Clements from the Energy & Climate Action Committee with gratitude for his service. Mr. Mathison seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

f. Affordable Housing Committee

Mr. Runyon moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Bill Stoeckert from the Affordable Housing Committee with gratitude. Mr. Mathison seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

g. Planning Committee

Mr. Runyon moved to accept the resignation of Mr. David Ortolani from the Planning Board with gratitude and appreciation. Mr. Mathison seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Vote to extend the Safer Community Task Force charge final report date to February 29, 2024.

**Mr. Mathison voted to extend the SCTF charge regarding the deadline date for final report to Select Board to February 29, 2024. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.**

The Board members discussed mental health needs to be addressed by the Safer Community Task Force.

5:00pm Eversource Pole Hearing – 22 Twiss Road

The Chair read the hearing notice to open the Public Hearing.

Ms. Jessica Elder from Eversource spoke to the Board regarding installation of approximately 40' conduit to connect to 22 Twiss Road. Ms. Elder confirmed the willingness to adhere to Town recommendations regarding road surface, moling and clearance from water lines.

**Mr. Galligan moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.**

**Mr. Galligan moved to approve the petition from Eversource for NStar Electric to install the facilities related to their plan dated November 22, 2023 on Twiss Road including conduit and all related facilities subject to the conditions submitted from the Water and Public Works Departments. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.**

Update from New Snow Library Feasibility Task Force and review draft article for Spring Town Meeting.

The Chair of the Snow Library Committee Mr. Gass and consultant Matt Oudens from Oudens Ello Architecture made a presentation of three design concepts and indicated potential need for zoning relief. Consultant input begins this month to help develop cost estimates. Board members discussed the designs and the limits and opportunities further. Optional approaches to parking and siting were discussed. A Plan B option was also touched upon. There was some discussion of a basement for storage. The Net Zero goal was also discussed.

Ms. Francolini from the Snow Library Board spoke about reciprocal parking with the Middle School. She also spoke about a warrant article for the Spring Town Meeting and how the wording has been approved by the Massachusetts Public Library Program (MPLP). She discussed financing with and without receiving a grant. The Town Manager stressed the importance of keeping a single-minded focus on getting the grant.

Discussion of 2040 Town needs. Mr. Herman briefly reviewed some of the needs/wants of the community and the region. He noted the benefits of a master plan that takes a region-wide view. Mr. Runyon mentioned that the Long Term Capital Planning Committee was also working on the same things. The Town Manager clarified the need for a warrant article to get guidance and buy-in from residents about top needs and how much money the Town is willing to spend to achieve the major needs. She also noted the need to include Storage to the list of needs. Mr. Runyon mentioned the need to have agility to acquire land when opportunities arise for future projects. Board members discussed the multi-generational nature of building to meet needs. It was also noted that there is a district region plan underway which also needs to be part of the total picture.

Approval of Select Board Minutes: March 29, 2021, August 23, 2023, September 6, 2023, September 13, 2023, September 27, 2023, October 11, 2023.

Ms. Reed moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board meeting of March 29, 2021 as submitted. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Ms. Reed moved to accept the minutes of August 23, 2023, September 6, 2023, September 13, 2023, September 27, 2023, and October 11, 2023 as submitted. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Select Board Goal Updates – Members discussed how to keep the online version of the goals current.

Liaison Reports and Member Updates.

The Wastewater Management Committee met last week and have three projects in various stages. There are two projects that may be submitted for grants relating to nitrogen-reduction.

CPC met last Thursday. Grant applicants are being asked to trim requests to fit within the budgets.

The Governor Prence Bid Review Committee has been assessing responses to the RFP.

Mr. Mathison discussed the School Committee. Roles and responsibilities regarding negotiations with the School Association were discussed. The Town has a say in negotiations as well as the School Committee. The Town Manager suggested roles and responsibilities need to be clarified.

Items for Future Agendas.

New regional school committee update.

Adjourn.

7.15pm **Mr. Runyon moved to adjourn at approximately 7.15pm. Mr. Galligan seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Mr. Galligan, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Runyon, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Fountain*

DRAFT